

REMARKS

Claims 2-16 and 18-21 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants have amended claims 2, 7-10, 18, and 21, and added new claims 22-25. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 2-16 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

According to the Examiner, claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 18, and 21 include recitations which make the claims indefinite, and “Claims 3-6, 8, 11-16, 19, and 20 are indefinite because of the technical deficiencies of claims 2, 7, 10 and 18.” Applicants have amended claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 18, and 21 accordingly. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claims 2-16 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that Claims 2-16 and 18-21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. As discussed above, Applicants have amended these claims accordingly, and thus these claims should now be in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claims 22-25 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are fully supported by the specification as filed, add no new matter, and are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

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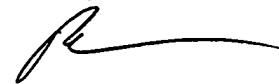
3/7/06

Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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